



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: KURT TRIPLETT, CITY MANAGER
From: KELLIE STICKNEY, COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM MANAGER
Date: MAY 28, 2020
Subject: PRIDE MONTH PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim June 2020 as Pride Month in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

This June of 2020 marks the 51st anniversary of the Stonewall Riots which ignited on June 28, 1969, and are regarded as the catalyst for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) movement for civil rights in the United States. June was subsequently chosen for LGBTQ Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall events. Starting in the 1970's "pride marches" have held every June across the nation to educate and celebrate LGBTQ rights and accomplishments.

This proclamation affirms the dignity of Kirkland residents, employees and visitors who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ).

The rainbow LGBTQ "pride flag" is prominently displayed throughout Pride Month. The pride flag will be flown over City Hall and in Marina Park to affirm the City's commitment to be a safe, inclusive and welcoming community that is open to everyone and where all people can be themselves without fear of discrimination or violence. Gilbert Baker, an American artist, gay rights activist, and U.S. Army veteran, created the original 8 color flag in 1978 as a new symbol for the gay and lesbian political movement, at the suggestion of his friends and colleagues, including Harvey Milk, a San Francisco City Supervisor and the first openly gay elected official in California. According to Baker's website, the flag was modified in 1979 to the current 6 colors, each of which has a meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for serenity and violet for spirit.

The City of Kirkland's Affirmative Action Policy was amended in 2001 to include sexual orientation. In 2017, the City of Kirkland added a new chapter 3.18 to the Kirkland Municipal Code related to sustaining a safe, welcoming and inclusive community for all residents regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, income or economic status, political affiliation, military status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming June 2020 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people are our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who contribute meaningfully to our community; and

WHEREAS, Gay Pride events are held in June to commemorate the June 28, 1969, Stonewall riots that were sparked in response to ongoing police harassment of New York's gay community, and were also the catalyst for establishing safe places for gays and lesbians to be open about their sexual orientation without fear of being arrested or jailed; and

WHEREAS, the fight for dignity, equality and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people has been hard-fought in the streets and in the courts of this country; and

WHEREAS, these fights for inclusion have made much progress toward changing the hearts and minds of people in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the City of Kirkland added "sexual orientation" to its Affirmative Action Policy; and in 2006 the State of Washington added protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the Washington law; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the City of Kirkland added a new chapter 3.18 to the Kirkland Municipal Code related to sustaining a safe, welcoming and inclusive community for all residents regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, income or economic status, political affiliation, military status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, pride events across the country, like most other large gatherings, have been cancelled or are being held virtually, resulting in the need to ensure that Pride Month, and the ongoing fight for dignity and equality, is not forgotten in the midst of these challenging times;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, in honor of the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, do hereby proclaim June 2020 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning members of our community, and as an affirmation of the City's commitment to protect and serve everyone who resides in, works in, or visits Kirkland without discrimination, as well its belief in the dignity, equality and constitutional and civil rights of all people.

Signed this 2nd day of June 2020

Penny Sweet, Mayor